

## Real Choice Systems Change Project

In the fall of 2001, the Bureau of Family Health Services, Nevada State Health Division was awarded the Real Choice Systems Change grant by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The overarching goal of the grant was to create enduring systems improvement in Nevada increasing access to community-based programs, services, and supports for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) and their families. During this grant period, a needs assessment was completed, the Nevada Advisory Council for CSHCN was formed, a media campaign run, and three demonstration projects occurred in Elko, Las Vegas, and Reno. Throughout the project the priorities have been to a) address the complex financial assistance process, and b) to improve access to resources, which includes information about services, referral to services, and the need for more providers. See the Vision Statement on the reverse side. The grant ends September 29, 2006.

When Judith Wright, Bureau of Family Health Services (BFHS) and Chuck Duarte, Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) were involved in writing the Real Choice Systems Change proposal, they saw the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit as a crucial piece to improve the lives of CSHCN. During the project, Real Choice Systems Change staff worked with the prior EPSDT coordinator, Tammy Ritter, to develop radio spots promoting EPSDT to families. DHCFP encouraged the contracted provider, First Health, to train providers on the billing process. In January, Marcia O'Malley, Executive Director of Family TIES, and BFHS applied to Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) for technical assistance to a) learn how better to meet the reciprocal obligations between Title V and Medicaid agencies with regard to EPSDT and b) increase knowledge of available tools and strategies to improve child health.

Through the HRSA technical assistance, Johnson Consultants, Inc. worked with a small planning team in Nevada to develop this leadership workshop. Kay Johnson, Johnson Consultants; Jamie Resnick, HRSA; Judith Wright, BFHS; Phil Nowak, DHCFP; Marti Cote, DHCFP; Marcia O'Malley, Family TIES; Debra Wagler, BFHS, Tammy Ritter, (past DHCFP); Gloria Deyhle (past BFHS); Doug Banghart, Community Health; and Cynthia Huth (BFHS) formed the planning team.

Additional EPSDT resources from HRSA may be found at:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/epsdt/>

The Nevada Health Kids (EPSDT) website is:

<http://dhcfp.state.nv.us/medicaid/hk.htm>

The Nevada State Health Division CSHCN website is:

<http://health2k.state.nv.us/cshcn/>

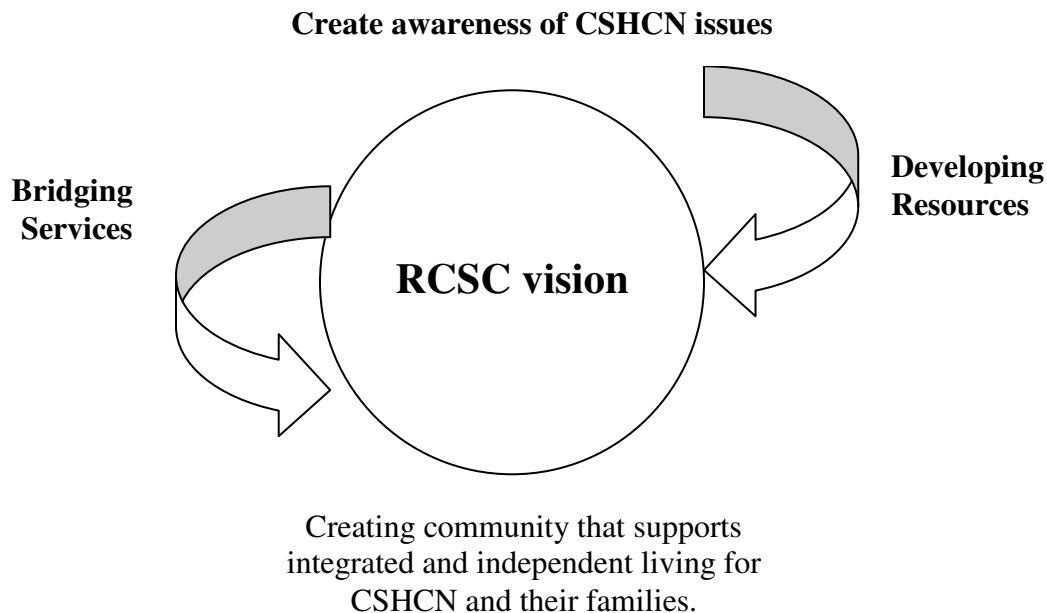
The Nevada State Health Division CSHCN helpline is: 866-254-3964

## **Real Choice Systems Change for Children with Special Health Care Needs**

**Vision Statement:** Creating community that supports integrated and independent living for all residents.

Primary issues based on Nevada CSHCN Needs Assessment findings (2005) and parent input regarding the challenges faced, gaps in services, and strengths of the system:

- Address complex financial assistance process (identified challenges)
- Improve access to resources, includes information and referral and lack of providers (identified challenges, barriers, and gaps)
- Supporting, caring, and committed professionals and advocates who work with children with special needs (identified strength to build upon)
- Enhanced cross-agency communication on behalf of CSHCN and their families (identified strength to build upon).



Partnering is required for success:

Affiliated agencies - (Nevada PEP, Family TIES, Centers for Independent Living, University Center of Excellence for Disabilities, Olmstead Plan-Governor's Strategic Plan Accountability Committee {SPAC}, Legislative Committee for Persons with Disabilities)

Networks of agencies - (Covering Kids and Families, Washoe County Maternal and Child Health Coalition, Obesity Coalitions)

State organizations - (Medicaid and Welfare departments, Office of Disability Services, Office of Minority Health, and Health Preparedness {Community Health}, Early Intervention Services, and Family Resource Centers)

Private organizations (foundations interested in children's issues)

Local organizations: (County Health Departments)

*List will continually grow . . . roles may change . . .*